

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Autumn Newsletter 2006.



The society has continued to promote a number of activities during the last few months. Reports on these follow.

Walking in Snowdonia, 23rd.-28th.April.

This year's spring meet was based at the Craig y Dderwen Hotel, Betws y Coed, on the banks of the River Conwy.

The hotel was excellent and the food enjoyed by all, partly because we were asked to select our choices for dinner before we left to walk each day.

This proved a subtle incentive not to tarry, and provided a point of focus over the difficult last mile or so of each walk.

Our first route started at Capel Curig and followed the cascading Llugwy via once busy settlements, now holiday havens and converted chapels, to "Ty Hyll" (the Ugly House.) returning through woods and high moorland with splendid views.

The following day started at Llyn Ogwen and comprised a walk and easy scramble around Llyn Idwal. We later realised that our leader, 'Sherpa' Stythe had used this to assess us for the next day's challenges, probably by checking our face colouring as we looked up the Idwal Slabs.

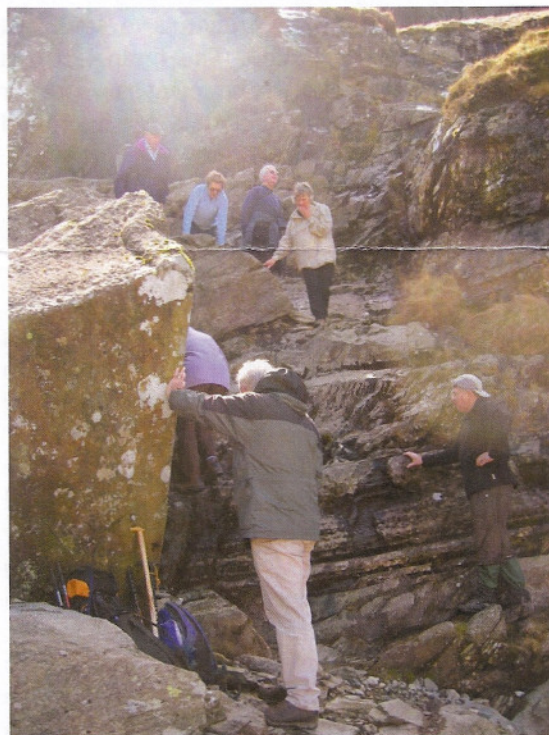
For our final excursion, Cecily led the sensible majority on a route through the Gwydyr forest along the Conwy valley to Llanrwst, returning by train. The four of us who were put off by the cost of a train journey, joined Mike for what he called "an interesting little walk" from Llyn Ogwen via Llyn Bochlywd and a Grade 1 scramble up the aptly named 'Bristly Ridge' to the summit of Glyder Fach, WOW!, returning via Y Gribyn - another scramble.

Your Secretary and Membership Secretary were also in this group and I'm pleased to say they both remain in office. I'm also glad to say that the climbing rope and survival blanket Mike lent me for the day were returned unused - just!

Thanks to Mike and Cecily for all the thoughtful organization which ensured that

we had such a happy rewarding Welsh holiday.

Ralph Broomby



'Sherpa' Stythe and his victims

A.G.M.12th.May.

Approximately 55 members attended and it was announced that the membership had increased to a new high of 93. Sadly it was time to say goodbye to three key committee members.

President Ann Evans, on behalf of all, expressed a sincere appreciation for all the work undertaken by the outgoing officers:

Chairman:	Gwyn Owen
Secretary:	Pam Britton
Treasurer:	Gill Wills

Ann presided over the election of the replacement officers together with two new committee members, (details at the end of the newsletter).

Once again the ladies of the catering team excelled themselves by providing a delightful meal. This was followed by a DVD presentation of "The Patagonian Journey", by Peter Jones, the producer. It was originally shown in July 2005 on BBC2W. The programme followed the journey of a small choir from Llanuwchllyn (Bala) to Chubut in Argentina to appear at the Trelew Eisteddfod. The timing of this presentation was intended to act as a spur for a possible trip to Patagonia by interested members.

Hugh Griffith

Visit to Cardiff 9th-11th. June.

Our journey to Cardiff took place in glorious weather, we felt more as if we were going to the Welsh Riviera. The weather set our hopes high, we were not to be disappointed. First stop was Tredegar House, on the outskirts of Newport, home from 1402 until 1951 of the Morgan family. Now owned by Newport Borough Council, it is reputed to be the finest restoration period house in Wales, if not the U.K.

Next stop was Cardiff Castle and a curator's tour of the magical rooms developed by the Marquis of Bute and his architect William Burges. Each being an individual work of art superbly executed.

On Saturday we visited St.Fagan's National History Museum and saw some of over 40 buildings brought from all over Wales and re-erected to show how the Welsh have lived, worked and organized themselves in past centuries.

Later we visited Llandaff Cathedral, before getting ready to dine out at the Bayside Brasserie over looking Cardiff Bay.

Sunday morning found us having a guided tour of the Millennium Centre, before leaving Cardiff to visit the Blaenavon World Heritage site Big Pit, and a spell underground cared for by a humorous Rhondda ex-miner named Alan. Over lunch we were entertained by Blaenavon Male Voice Choir who happened to be giving an open air concert for visitors to the site.

This was a fitting end to a most successful trip which involved pleasant company, good

fun and a lot of information about the City and its environment.

Many thanks to Ann Evans for organizing such a splendid time for us.

Colin Mitchell



The group at Tredegar House.

Summer Lunch Sunday 23rd. June.

Aren't we lucky? Our seventh annual Summer Lunch was held in glorious sunshine, as have the last six lunches, enabling us to enjoy Kerry and Frank Birbeck's lovely garden at The White Cottage. Thank you Kerry and Frank for the added treat of tasty home-grown tomatoes from Frank's greenhouse.

The committee presented us with an array of delicious food, supplied by members. It is always fun to taste other folks' favourite recipes, and our glasses were always well charged.

We were cerebrally challenged after lunch with Ralph's quiz, there was time to chat, renew friendships and catch up with one another's news.

The Summer Lunch has a very special place in our calendar of events as it is the least formal of occasions and a lovely opportunity to relax together. It does require a lot of organization by the committee and the hosts. We are very grateful to everyone for their hard work, which resulted in such a happy event.

John and I had a great welcome and enjoyed ourselves very much, well worth the drive up from our new home in Hampshire.

Thelma Lusher



Summer Lunch Day at White Cottage.

Visit to the Magic circle 12th.September .

A magical night – full of awe and wonder – a chance to be a child again! We were the first group to arrive and so were privileged to have a talk on magic memorabilia all to ourselves in a room full of glass cabinets containing all sorts of tricks and artefacts used by magicians over the years.

Then we watched ‘close –up magic’ from four magicians in succession which involved some audience participation. How do they do it? We’ll never know those closely guarded secrets.

Off to the theatre upstairs next for a talk by the President on the history of magic from Houdini to the present day - how skilled magicians have to be before they are invited to join that very select group ‘The Magic Circle’. Prince Charles is a member. The highest honour is to sport a medal saying ‘Inner Magic Circle’ of whom there are only 200 or so members in the world. Four of them were in attendance that evening escorting us round the building and answering any questions.

Next sherry and sandwiches after which we were treated to an excellent show in the theatre – 3 totally different magical acts. The first very slick with card tricks and metal rings which are all entangled one minute then they’re not! The second act was silent apart from lovely old fashioned background music while a gentleman whom I’d love to have for a grandfather entertained us with

wonderful tricks. The third made us laugh a lot with his very funny (at times risqué) story telling with his face dead-pan, almost sad, whilst tearing up a sheet of newspaper into so many tiny pieces that one could only gasp when it turned into a whole sheet again.

Time to go home – thereby hangs a tale!

Puzzle: 15 of us went up in the mini- bus, 15 went home in the mini-bus, 16 went to the show. How could that happen?.....

Ann Thomas.

Annual Golf Day at Harewood Downs Golf Club 29th. September.

This year 19 players turned up at Harewood Downs Golf Club for a mixed fours competition.

We were fortunate in having a glorious day with the course in good condition.

The morning started with crispy bacon rolls and coffee with lunch and prize giving following. It was noted that only one person reached the green on the 17th hole to win the nearest the pin competition! That was Colin Wills. Well done Colin.

There were 23 members at the lunch to witness the prizes given to Pat Whitworth and Bob Ford with runners-up Gill Wills and Alan Longshaw.

A thoroughly enjoyable day and our thanks to Ralph Broomby for organizing the event.

Bob Ford.

Forthcoming events

Christmas Drinks at the Tuft, Chiltern Road on Sunday 10th December at 12.30pm, hosted by our President Ann Evans. Please let Ann know if you will be attending.

Dates for your 2007 diaries.

Quiz Evening with Fish & Chip supper at Coleshill Village Hall on the 27th.January.

St.David’s Day Dinner at Harewood Downs Golf Club on 1st.March.

Walking holiday in the Brecon Beacons 22-25th.April.

A.G.M. Coleshill Village Hall on the 11th.May.

Visit to the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in July.

Summer Lunch on the 22nd. July.

Annual Golf day on the 7th. September.

Possible visit to a concert at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff in October.

Xmas drinks on the 9th.December.

Details of all the above events will be circulated in due course. Anyone specifically interested in the walking holiday, the trips to Llangollen and Cardiff should register their interest as soon as possible. (Please ring/e-mail Maldwyn Pugh).

Election of Officers.

The following were elected as officers of the Society during the A.G.M. in May.

Chairman: Bob Ford.
Tel.no. 01494-774317

Secretary: Maldwyn Pugh.
Tel.no. 01494-763461
E.mail address: pugh792@btinternet.com

Membership Sec.: Mrs.Ann Lawrence.
Tel.no.01494-727207

Treasurer: Mrs.Eileen Mitchell.
Tel.no.01494-681471

Committee Members:

Ann Thomas. Ralph Broomby.
Hugh Griffith. Gwyndaf John.